under the Chairmanship of Prof. S.K. Joshi to identify promising academic institutions to be upgraded. The Committee considered the proposal received from Prime Minister's Office. However, based on stipulated parameters, the Expert Committee did not recommend any institution from Orissa for upgradation to the level of IITs.

Child Development Programme

1983. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have emphasized the need for proper planning and effective implementation of the child development programme;

(b) whether a two day national consultation of the State Women and Child Development Ministers and Secretaries was held in July, 2005;

(c) if so, the suggestion discussed and the decisions arrived at;

(d) the steps Government have suggested to the States in this regard; and

(e) the extent to which both the Centre and States are willing to cooperate in implementing these programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The suggestions/recommendations made in the National Consultation *inter-alia,* include, Universalisation of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme to focus on reaching out to children under 3 years; relaxation in population norms for sanctioning and Anganwadi Centre; joint training module for ICDS & Reproductive Child Health (RCH) programme functionaries; change in Anganwadi Worker's job chart to reflect focus on children under 3 years; resource allocation in ICDS for quality improvement. The States have been requested to implement the above recommendations expeditiously.

(e) Both, the Central and State Governments, renewed their commitment to implement the ICDS scheme more effectively during the consultation.

Review of UGC Scheme

1984. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has initiated an academic

review of all its existing schemes and set up user feedback Committee at seven regional offices to assess impact of various programmes to bring out qualitative changes in higher education in Eleventh Plan;

(b) whether academic review would be undertaken in collaboration with the State Councils for Higher Education in various States;

(c) whether reports of these exercises would be used as inputs to the proposals for higher education in Eleventh Plan; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), user feedback committees have been set up for the South Western Regional Office (SWRO) and Eastern Regional Office (ERO) of the UGC, Directors of Collegiate Education, Directors of College Development Councils and Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson of the State Councils of Higher Education are members of the committee. Reports are used as inputs by the Committees and the Commission and would continue to be useful inputs for the finalization of the XI Plan proposals.

Merit based Scholarship Schemes

1985. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to help meritorious students to pursue the course of their choice with the newly announced two merit-based scholarships schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount earmarked for this purpose; and

(d) the criteria set for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. University Grants Commission (UGC) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) have announced scholarships for meritorious students. CBSE has started two new Merit Based Scholarship Schemes:

(i) CBSE Merit Scholarship Scheme for Professional Studies and

(ii) CBSE Merit Scholarship Scheme for Under-Graduate Students.